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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CASTLE WARD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For 1954

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

I—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

There was an increase of 520 in the Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population to 15,420 from 14,900 in 1953.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births during 1954 was 221, 114 being male and 107 female, compared with a total of 203 during the previous year. The number of illegitimate births was 9, in 1954 and 8, in 1953.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the rural district was 15.58 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales was 15.2.

In 1953, the birth rate for the district was 13.7 compared with the national rate of 15.5 per 1,000 population.

There was a decided decrease in the number of still births during the year to a total of 3, whereas in 1953, there were 6 still births registered.

The still birth rate in 1954 was 13.3 per 1,000 live and still births compared with the rate of 24.0 for the country generally.

DEATHS.

In 1954, the total number of deaths registered in the district was 347, of which 146 occurred among residents of the district and 201 in Hospitals or Institutions situated in the district.

For the previous year the figures were, a total of 338 deaths, 127 being of residents and 211 Hospital or Institutional.

The death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 20.02 in 1954 and the rate for the country was 11.3 per 1,000 population. In 1953, the comparable rates were 19.9 for this district and 11.4 per 1,000 population for the country generally.

Since January 1st, 1953, when the Registrar General altered the method of assigning deaths to include all deaths in Hospitals or Institutions to the district where the Hospitals are situated and not to the district in which the patient previously resided, as was done before this, the death rate has, of course, risen considerably.

In order to elucidate the position, the death rate of residents is given separately. In 1954, it was 9.4 (uncorrected) per 1,000 population compared with 8.5 in 1953 and 9.8 in 1952.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1954, whereas in 1953, 10 deaths occurred.

The infant mortality rate for the district was 27.1 per 1,000 live births and that for England and Wales was 25.5. In 1953, the rate for the district was 51.3 and that for England and Wales was 26.8.

The infant mortality rates for the rural district fluctuate considerably from year to year as shown in the tables, but the 1954 rate compares, on the whole, favourably with previous years.

The fact that no infant death occurring in 1954 was due to infective causes is worthy of note and some satisfaction.

Of the 6 infant deaths, 3 were neo-natal (*i.e.*, occurred during the first month of life) and were all due to prematurity, and of the other 3 deaths, taking place later in the first year, two had congenital defects as the primary cause and the other, a baby of 10 months was "found dead." (Inquest).

In the previous year, out of 10 infant deaths, 3 were due to infective causes.

The value of infant welfare care, together with the use of the antibiotics and newer drugs seems to be demonstrated, but in careful work and research into the causes of congenital defects and ante-natal work as regards prematurity, much remains to be done.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No death from maternal causes was registered in 1954, as in the previous three years. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.69 per 1,000 (live and still) births compared with 0.76 in 1953.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The total number of deaths classified as due to heart and circulatory diseases was 155, 60 of these being of residents and 95 occurring in Hospitals or Institutions in the district.

In 1953, the total number of deaths registered from these causes was 137, 43 being of residents and 94 Institutional or Hospital.

The number of deaths of residents has, therefore, increased by 18 in 1954.

A decrease in the number of deaths classified as due to vascular lesions of the nervous system was found in 1954, both in those of residents and in those in the Hospitals. The total number was 81 (13 of residents and 68 Institutional) compared with a total of 97 in 1953 (23 of residents and 74 Institutional).

There was a total of 34 (22 of residents and 12 Hospital) deaths registered as due to malignant neoplasm, compared with 38 (25 of residents and 13 Hospital) the preceding year.

A slight decrease in deaths classified under this heading was found in 1954, chiefly in those classified as "malignant neoplasm of other sites" from 22 in 1953, to 15 in 1954. Deaths clasified as due to "neoplasm of the lungs or bronchi" rose to 7 (all residents) in 1954, from 4 in 1953, and those of the breast from 2 in 1953 to 4 in 1954.

Deaths classified as due to "malignant neoplasm of the stomach and duodenum" remained similar in both years.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases (other than Tuberculosis) was 15 (8 of residents and 7 Hospital) in 1954 and 22 (6 of residents and 16 Hospital) in 1953.

There was therefore, a slight rise in deaths classified in this group among residents.

2 deaths (both of residents) from "Influenza" occurred in 1954. There had been no death registered from this cause since 1951, when there were 3.

In the previous three years, no death from a motor vehicle accident had been registered but in 1954, two deaths, one male (Hospital death) and one female (resident) unfortunately occurred.

The number of deaths "from other accidents" rose sharply to 11 in 1954 from 4 in 1953. Three were due to colliery accidents, 2 to drowning, 4 to falls at home, 1 to hanging and 1 to shooting.

There was one death from suicide and one from homicide.

A death of an elderly lady of 69 years from Bacillary Dysentery occurred at a Hospital in the district. There was one death of a resident from Infective Hepatitis.

II—TUBERCULOSIS.

Two deaths (one male, one female) were registered during the year from respiratory Tuberculosis. Both deaths were of residents.

In 1953, three deaths were registered from this cause, two of them being of hospital residents. These figures (omitting the Institutional deaths) showed a slight decrease in deaths of residents from this cause during the last two years from 3 in 1952. This is in conformity with the National trend.

The total death rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) in 1954 for the rural district was 0.12 per 1,000 population, compared with the rate of 0.16 for England and Wales in 1954 and 0.21 per 1,000 population for this district in 1953.

There has been no death registered in the rural district from the non-pulmonary form of the disease for the last six years.

The total number of primary notifications of Tuberculosis (all forms) increased to 9 (6 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary, all residents) from 8 (6 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) in 1953. The notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 1 male and 5 female, whereas in 1953, 5 male and 1 female notifications were received. The increase was in the younger female age groups, 15 to 25 to 45 years, with an almost corresponding decrease in the male age groups.

There was an increase of one notification of the non-pulmonary form of the disease to 3 in 1954 from 2 in 1953. One notification (Tuberculosis Meningitis) being of a child of under 5 years.

The number of inward transfers of notified cases of Tuberculosis to the district remained the same as in 1953. 11 cases (10 pulmonary, one non-pulmonary).

Since the beginning of 1952, 26 notified cases have come into the district, approximating to the number of primary notifications, namely 28, arising in the rural district itself during the same period, thus nearly doubling the number of cases added to the Tuberculosis Register in that time.

III—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 178, compared with a total of 280 in 1953, and 180 in 1952.

The number of notifications of Measles showed a big decrease from 215 cases in 1953 to 51 in 1954. 1953 was the year of bi-ennial increase.

Notifications of Whooping Cough increased to 76 during the year. In the previous year, 40 cases had been notified.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever continued on its gradual decline, 4 cases only being notified during the year. These were of a very mild type. In 1953, 5 cases of the disease and in 1952, 22 cases were notified.

Notifications of Pneumonia rose to 4 from 2 in 1953 and 6 in 1952.

For the seventh year in succession no case of Diphtheria was notified.

During the year, 15 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified, 14 of these were patients in one of the hospitals in the district and one case only was of a resident.

Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia increased to 22 from 11 the previous year. 20 of these notifications were from a Maternity Hospital and 2 only, were of residents of the district.

4 cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The first two cases (one paralytic, one non-paralytic) were notified in July, two boys, aged 4 and 8 years, living in a village in the district. Both cases were of a mild type and both made a complete recovery.

The other two cases were notified in September and occurred in a Residential Nursery owned by a neighbouring authority. One child, a boy of 1 year 8 months, was removed to Walkergate Hospital, the other child, a boy of 2 years, had a mild attack with slight facial paralysis. In co-operation with the visiting physicians and staff of the Nursery, contacts were kept under home and garden quarantine and preventive measures were taken. During the year, 10 contacts of cases of poliomyelitis occurring in other districts were kept under surveillance for the necessary period.

No further case was notified.

Brucellosis (Undulant Fever).

A case of this disease occurred in July. Samples of milk from the supplier were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and a sample also taken from the herd from which butter was supplied to the household. Results of both samples were negative.

A case of Typhoid Fever without clinical symptoms and diagnosed entirely on blood agglutination tests was, after consultation with the Laboratory, notified early in January.

Specimens of faeces and urine of both patient and a contact proved consistently negative. Investigation revealed no outside source of infection. This appeared to be an isolated case.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year compared with one case notified in 1953.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Walkergate, Newcastle upon Tyne, when necessary.

IV—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.

No action was necessary under this heading.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention.—Section 47.

Several cases were investigated under this Section but no formal action was taken.

V—HOUSING.

Further progress was made during the year in the building of new houses, both privately and by the Council.

Considerable private development continued in the Brunton Park, Melton Park and Darras Hall Estates.

The total number of houses built by the Council to December 31st, 1954, was 1,143, 150 houses having been built during the year.

In the course of the year, 188 houses were built privately. The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied these figures.

During the year under review, further steady progress was made in the work of detailed inspection of sub-standard houses. In connection with this, the detailed inspections of all sub-standard houses in Development Centres, No. 1 (Ponteland), and No. V (Whalton) were completed, the detailed inspections in Development Centres, No. I (Dinnington, Brunswick), No. II (Heddon), No. IV (Stamfordham) and IX (Woolsington), having been completed in previous years.

Some sub-standard houses were brought up to standard, in some cases with the assistance of the Housing Act, 1949/52, and in other cases, Demolition Orders were made or Undertakings accepted by the Council for their use for storage purposes, and in connection with wood bungalows, their use for weekend or holiday purposes only.

Information in tabular form required under Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, is contained in the detailed Housing Section of the report.

AMENDED TABLE, 31st DECEMBER, 1954.
(After result of Formal and Informal Action)

Population	No. of houses	CATEGORIES				
		1	2	3	4	5
Registrar General's Estimate 15,420	4,346	2,730 62.8%	417 9.5%	946 21.7%	191 4.3%	62 1.4%
					Cat. 4	Cat. 5
Total number of category 4 and 5 houses at 31st December, 1950					322	424
No. of houses against which action has been taken 31st December, 1954					131 42.8%	362 85.4%
No. of houses against which action still has to be taken					191 57.2%	62 14.6%

Conversions of 66 privies to water carriage systems took place during the year, several of these followed the penetration of the Newcastle and District Water Company's mains into the particular district, or the construction of new sewers.

VI—FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

No formal action was necessary under this section.

Regular visits to the 38 food premises in the district were paid by the Sanitary Officers and matters of food hygiene discussed with the staffs of the premises. This method of individual approach has been found to be satisfactory in a scattered rural district, where many of the food handlers live some distance from their place of employment.

VII—WATER SUPPLY

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, which became operative from 31st July of that year continued to be implemented. Further progress was made in connection with the laying of water mains into the Western Area of the district. The details of these (kindly given by the Engineer and Surveyor), and the position in general regarding water supplies, is set out in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

VIII—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

From March, 1954, a detailed investigation of the degree of atmospheric pollution at Brunswick Village was conducted by Peter C. G. Isaac, B.Sc., (Eng.) S.M., A.M.I.C.E., of King's College, Department of Civil Engineering, on the instructions of the Council.

The results of this investigation are contained in the Senior Sanitary Officer's section of the report. The information obtained from these

investigations will be extremely useful, as a yardstick for comparison with atmospheric pollution in other areas.

IX—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

The details under this section have been supplied by Mr. Strachan, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT BY OTHER AUTHORITIES.

(a) HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

- (i) Birney Hill Convalescent Hospital.
- (ii) Ponteland Hospital.
- (iii) St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.
- (iv) Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Children's Sanatorium, Stannington.
- (v) Burnholme, Stannington.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES.

- (i) Cottage Homes, Ponteland (Newcastle Corporation).
- (ii) Louisville (Children's Home), Ponteland (Northumberland County Council).
- (iii) Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington (Northumberland County Council).
- (iv) Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (for aged people) (Northumberland County Council).

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and the care of the buildings under (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee.

1. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

There are five nurse/midwives practising in the district :—

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 4, Cheviot View, Brunswick Village.
- (2) „ Cockburn, The Bungalow, Dinnington Village.
- (3) „ Brown, The Green, Ponteland.
- (4) „ Wright, 3, The Oval, Stamfordham.
- (5) „ Larney, Blagdon, Stannington.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Eight Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are situated in the district, one at each of the following places :—

Dinnington Village, Brunswick Village, Brunton Park, Hazlerigg, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Settlement and Stannington Village.

Sessions are held for babies, children up to five years and for expectant mothers as well as immunisation sessions.

3. AMBULANCE.

The south western portion of the district is covered by ambulances of the Throckley and Wideopen stations and the northern part of the district by ambulances of the Morpeth Station.

On October 3rd, 1954, control of ambulances by radio became operative throughout the South Area, mobile sets were installed on the ambulances and controlled by monitor sets at the stations.

4. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (children 0—5 years), at the schools, and by the General Practitioners of the district.

At 31st December, 1954, 85% of the total child population of the district had been immunised at some time during their lives, compared with 84% in 1953, and 76% in 1952.

There was a rise in the percentage of immunised children under five years to 65% in 1954 from 62.9% in 1953. The percentage of immunised children from 5—15 years remained at 98 in both years.

In the course of the year, 257 children received a primary course of immunisation (150 children under 5 years and 107 from 5—15 years), in addition, 162 children received a reinforcing injection.

Immunity Index.

This Index which shows the number of children in each age group immunised during the last few years, was introduced by the Ministry of Health in 1953. For the rural district, the figures for that year were ; under one year, 19% ; 1—4 years, 72% ; 5—14 years, 82% ; giving a total of 75% of the child population (0—14 years) immunised during the preceding five years.

In 1954, the Index had risen in the two older age groups, but dropped considerably in the first age group.

The figures were : under one year, 9% ; 1—4 years, 79% ; 5—14 years, 84% ; with the total of 80% of the child population (0—14 years) immunised during the last five years.

The main object of the immunisation campaign remains as before, to secure immunisation of no less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and to see that an adequate level of immunisation is maintained, for only then can this country hope to be rid of diphtheria altogether.

The aim of getting every child immunised before the first birthday is still the primary concern of doctors, health visitors, district nurses and other health workers in the field, who continue to try to achieve this by personal persuasion aided by a background of publicity.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.

During the year, a total of 84 children (51 under one year and 33 1 to 4 years) received prophylaxis with pertussis vaccine.

In 1953, a total of 44 children received prophylactic injections.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

In 1954, there were 60 primary vaccinations and 11 re-vaccinations and in 1953, 64 primary vaccinations and 12 re-vaccinations. These figures are extremely low and leave the majority of the population at risk should a case arise, which, with increased travel generally, especially air travel, is quite possible.

5. HOME HELP.

During the year, 81 patients resident in the rural district were served with home helps for varying periods, an increase of 10 cases on the previous year, when 71 cases were served.

The cases included 18 (11) of illness, 44 (34) aged and infirm people, 13 (15) confinements, 2 (5) following discharge from hospital, 2 (1) blind persons, (1) case of mental illness and one problem case. The figures in brackets indicate the number served in 1953.

The increase was chiefly in the number of aged and infirm people served.

6. CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Meetings of the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub-Committee were held at two monthly intervals and aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis with milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to sanatoria, etc., were granted in suitable cases and an effort made to help in difficult circumstances.

7. NURSING CARE COMMITTEES.

There are four Nursing Care Committees in the district, Blagdon and Stannington, Dinnington Village, Ponteland and Stamfordham.

These Committees are voluntary organisations who visit sick people on occasions and supply articles of nursing equipment as required.

The Honorary Secretaries of these Committees are :—

Mrs. Pettit, Blagdon Estate, Stannington.

Mrs. B. C. Hatton, Prestwick Whins, Ponteland.

Mrs. W. N. Stokoe, Pethgate, Eastern Way, Ponteland.

Mrs. J. Boylan, Rose Cottage, Cheeseburn Grange.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council's Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my Department, to the Chief Sanitary Officer particularly and the staff of the Health Department for their assistance during the year, also the staffs of other departments of the Council for their co-operation and for certain information necessary in the compilation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area (in acres)	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population	15,420
No. of habitable houses	4,346
Sum represented by penny rate	£479
Rateable value	£132,433

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (leg.)	110	102	212
Live births (illeg.)	4	5	9
Still births	2	1	3
Deaths	170	177	347
Birth rate per 1,000 population			15.58
Still births per 1,000 live and still births			13.3
Death Rate			20.02

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION :

Nil.

II

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births 27.1

DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 34
 Measles (all ages) Nil
 Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil
 Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA, 1954.

	Males	Females	Total	Institu- tional Deaths
ALL CAUSES	170	177	347	(201)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2	—
2. „ other	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningo-coccal infections	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2	3	(1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7	(3)
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	5	2	7	—
12. „ „ breast	—	4	4	(1)
13. „ „ uterus	—	1	1	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	3	15	(8)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1	(1)
16. Diabetes	—	2	2	(2)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	37	44	81	(68)
18. Coronary disease, angina	24	9	33	(7)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5	(1)
20. Other heart disease	42	68	110	(83)
21. Other circulatory disease	6	1	7	(4)
22. Influenza	—	2	2	—
23. Pneumonia	4	5	9	(6)
24. Bronchitis	4	1	5	(1)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformation	1	1	2	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	19	31	(15)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2	—
34. All other accidents	7	4	11	—
35. Suicide	1	—	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1	—

(Figures in brackets indicate
Hospital deaths)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population).

BIRTHS					DEATHS		
			Castle Ward	England & Wales			
					Castle Ward	England & Wales	
1935	..	..	12.9	15.3	..	9.4	12.1
1936	..	..	12.9	15.4	..	10.7	12.1
1937	..	..	13.7	15.5	..	9.9	12.4
1938	..	..	15.2	15.7	..	9.3	11.6
1939	..	..	14.2	15.5	..	8.8	12.1
1940	..	..	13.1	15.1	..	8.3	14.3
1941	..	..	13.0	15.7	..	9.0	11.6
1942	..	..	15.9	16.3	..	10.1	11.6
1943	..	..	15.7	17.0	..	9.3	12.1
1944	..	..	17.5	18.1	..	12.6	11.6
1945	..	..	14.9	16.5	..	11.6	11.4
1946	..	..	17.2	19.6	..	10.7	11.5
1947	..	..	14.9	21.0	..	11.5	12.0
1948	..	..	15.4	18.3	..	10.9	10.8
1949	..	..	15.8	16.7	..	10.0	11.7
1950	..	..	15.6	15.8	..	10.47	11.6
1951	..	..	14.2	15.5	..	10.43	12.5
1952	..	..	13.8	15.3	..	17.05	11.3
1953	..	..	13.7	15.5	..	19.9	11.4
1954	..	..	15.58	15.2	..	20.02	11.3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

			Castle Ward	England Wales
1941	..	..	40.6	59
1942	..	..	30.0	49
1943	..	..	28.5	49
1944	..	..	41.8	46
1945	..	..	50.9	46
1946	..	..	43.0	43
1947	..	..	41.0	41
1948	..	..	26.3	34
1949	..	..	13.4	32
1950	..	..	13.4	29.8
1951	..	..	19.2	29.6
1952	..	..	55.0	27.6
1953	..	..	51.3	25.5
1964	..	..	27.1	25.5

INFANT MORTALITY, 1954.

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	1 day
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	5 hours
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	2 days
Congenital Hydrocephalus	..	..	..	..	3 months
Paroxysmal Tachycardia	..	..	..	..	4 months
Found Dead	..	..	..	..	10 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page oo gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological Reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Public Health Department.

					positive	negative
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	2	
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	..			15	17	
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	..	..		2	29	
Gastric lavage for Tuberculosis culture	..	..		—	9	
Gastric aspiration for Inoculation (Tuberculosis) ..				1	30	
Urine for pus cells and culture	..	..	..	4	2	
Stool specimens for Dysentery	..	..	..	2	20	
Stool specimens for other purposes ..	..	..	..	—	12	
Nasal swab for Pertussis	..	..	..	1	4	
Blood	..	..	..	4	1	
Ear swabs	..	..	..	—	2	
				29	128	
TOTAL	..				157	

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1954.

NUMBER OF CASES.

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 & over		Age unknown		Total		Hosp-ital		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	1	1	7	6	11	7	15	22	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	37	39	—	—	—	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	Nil
Measles ..	2	—	3	6	6	8	14	8	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	27	24	—	—	—	Nil
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Polio Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

DISEASE	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 & over		Total		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	4	5
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	4	—	—	1	14	—	1
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Enc. Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—
Enteric & Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1954.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total outbreaks	..	Nil	Total Cases	..	Nil
-----------------	----	-----	-------------	----	-----

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including Toxin)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total outbreaks	..	Nil	Total Cases	..	Nil
-----------------	----	-----	-------------	----	-----

SINGLE CASES	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Agent identified..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Number of deaths	Nil
------------------	----	----	-----

Food involved	Nil
---------------	----	----	-----

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

	Notifications			Deaths	
1933	31	..	1
1934	7	..	Nil
1935	13	..	Nil
1936	23	..	Nil
1937	12	..	1
1938	36	..	Nil
1939	34	..	1
1940	18	..	Nil
1941	19	..	Nil
1942	23	..	4
1943	6	..	Nil
1944	9	..	1
1945	8	..	Nil
1946	4	..	Nil
1947	2	..	Nil
1948	Nil	..	Nil
1949	Nil	..	Nil
1950	Nil	..	Nil
1951	Nil	..	Nil
1952	Nil	..	Nil
1953	Nil	..	Nil
1954	Nil	..	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS—AGE GROUPS.

Age Periods				New cases notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1954			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
1—5	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
5—15	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
15—25	..	..	..	—	2	—	1
25—35	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
35—45	..	..	..	—	2	—	1
45—55	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
55—65	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
65 and over	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
				1	5	1	2
				6		3	
				9			

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

QUARTER ENDED	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from Register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary
March 31st, 1954—								
Males	49	12	—	—	—	—	49	12
Females	52	18	2	1	1	1	53	18
June 30th, 1954—								
Males	49	12	1 (1 I.T.)	—	—	—	50	12
Females	53	18	1 (1 I.T.)	—	—	—	54	18
September 30th, 1954—								
Males	50	12	3 (3 I.T.)	1	2	—	51	13
Females	54	18	3 (2 I.T.)	2 (1 I.T.)	—	—	57	20
December 31st, 1954—								
Males	51	13	3 (2 I.T.)	—	7	3	47	10
Females	57	20	3 (1 I.T.)	—	5	4	55	16

Figures in brackets indicate Inward Transfers to the district.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, 1954

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The amount of work carried out under this heading is shown chiefly in the "Sanitary Inspector's Report" table on page 35 and also on this page and page 19 showing tables of "Summary of Sanitary Defects" and "Summary of Work Effected." Steady progress has been maintained with the detailed inspection of houses, and the results of action both formal and informal is shown on page 35

The Ministry of Works in November, 1954, removed the final restriction imposed during the war years in connection with building materials and licensing of new works, repair and maintenance, etc. The removal of the restrictions has been of considerable assistance to this district in particular, where a policy of reconditioning and improvement to sub-standard houses has been actively pursued. Licences issued up to November, 1954, are as follows :—

(a) Improved Housing	£5,592 14 2
(b) Increased Housing Accommodation ..	£6,765 0 0
(c) Construction of roads and sewers ..	£95,000 0 0

The following table shows a summary of sanitary defects :—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or written notice	Complied with
To clear choked drain or W.C.	12	12
To provide ashbins	3	3
To repair sinks or wastepipes	7	7
Defective or leaking roofs, damp walls, walls, etc.	27	27
Defective fireplaces	8	8
„ outbuildings	18	18
„ manhole covers	1	1
„ water closets	12	12
„ sash cords and window frames ..	5	5
„ wallplaster	26	26
„ ceilings	17	17
„ foodstores	3	3
„ floors, stairs, handrails	16	16
„ yards and steps	17	17
„ yard walls	7	7
„ eaves, gutters and fallspouts ..	20	20
„ internal wood benches, doors, etc.	18	18
„ setpots	5	5
„ chimney stacks	4	4
„ water supply pipes	1	1
Offensive accumulations	3	3

19
Summary of Work Effected.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	TOTAL
Privies & Privy ashpits abolished ..	59	7	66
„ „ „ repaired ..	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	59	7	66
Number of above for which grant was given	66	—	66
Sanitary bins provided	66	—	66
„ „ renewed	41	—	41
New Drains constructed	53 new systems	—	53
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	29 extns.	—	29
Additional gullies provided	49	—	49
Old gullies replaced	23	—	23
Scullery sinks provided	17	—	17
„ waste-pipes repaired	3	—	3
„ waste-pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	4	—	4

FACTORIES ACT.

There are 61 factorioies in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review.

INSPECTIONS.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	16	48	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	81	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing Outworkers) Premises	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	61	129	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND.

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Pro-secutions instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	9	—	—	—

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, SECTION 269.

During the year under review 12 trailer caravans were licensed. All the caravans are of modern design.

There is one licensed site providing accommodation for six caravans.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

15 dwelling houses have been disinfected after infectious disease.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Two houses were treated for vermin and one for an extensive infestation of fleas. Occupants of several houses were given advice on eradication of cockroach infestation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the local authority is responsible for the hygienic handling of milk by retailers of whom there are twelve operating in the district.

Registered Dairymen :—

Mr. H. J. Farquhar, North Moor Farm, Plessey, Stannington.

Mr. E. Watson, The Tilery, Hazlerigg.

Mr. H. Thompson, Havannah Farm, Dinnington.

Mr. J. Herron, Woodside, Darras Hall.

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.

Cramlington Co-operative Society.

Newcastle upon Tyne Co-operative Society.

Throckley and District Co-operative Society.

Mr. E. D. Coltman, 60, Denton Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Messrs. J. T. & R. Graham, Wylam Hill, Wylam-on-Tyne.

Mr. J. Blenkinsop, 10, Eskdale Mansions, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, Grey Street, Brunswick Village, for sale of sterilised milk.

Forty-seven samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year for the Methylene Blue Test and for the presence of Tuberculosis, the results being as follows :—

32 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

3	samples	decolourised				in 4½ hours.
2	"	"	"	"	"	in 3½ "
3	"	"	"	"	"	in 3 "
2	"	"	"	"	"	in 2½ "
1	"	"	"	"	"	in 2 "
1	"	"	"	"	"	in 1½ "
2	"	"	"	"	"	in 1 "
1	"	"	"	"	"	in ½ "

Of the 45 samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the presence of Tuberculosis, all proved negative.

Co-operation is maintained with the County Milk Production Officer, to whom the results of the Methylene Blue Test of milk samples from Producers and Producer Retailers are forwarded.

All positive samples (milk containing the tubercle bacilli) are immediately notified to the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for appropriate action.

(b) FOOD PREMISES.

Food premises in the district consist of the following type of business :

Bakery	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butcher	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Cafe	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Grocery including Greengrocery and General Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	30

Of the above premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1934, 19 are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, one for the sale and manufacture of ice-cream and 8 for the manufacture of preserved meats. 304 visits were made to all food premises. In five cases structural improvements were carried out ; three contraventions of the Byelaws were observed in respect of food handling. All contraventions were remedied after interview.

Instruction to food handlers on the hygienic principles involved in dealing with food continued as in previous years, *i.e.*, individual talks to personnel on the premises.

(c) CONDEMNED FOOD DISPOSAL.

1. Meat and Offal—Weekly collection at Abattoirs by a firm of Glue and Chemical Manufacturers.
2. Other Food — Incineration on Council's refuse disposal points.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.

Four samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and tested under the above regulations. All four samples reached the highest standard, *i.e.*, Grade I.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57 (Licensing of Slaughter Houses) Circular M.F. 4/54, 24th February, 1954 (Slaughtering Facilities). Circular M.F. 5/54, 24th March (Licensing and Provision of Slaughter Houses).

The rationing of meat ended in July, 1954. Restrictions on the sale, and quantity for sale, had existed for 14 years. During this period slaughtering of food animals had been confined to Government controlled Abattoirs situated in selected centres. The meat supplies to this district were slaughtered in Abattoirs at Newcastle and Morpeth.

In pursuance of the above Act and Circulars, all eleven slaughter houses in the district were examined in detail, regard being given to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Slaughter House Byelaws. After structural alterations and the addition of hot and cold water supply, 4 slaughter houses were licensed. One new application was also considered and the premises licensed.

Ponteland being a livestock Mart Centre and provided with Railway facilities, it is submitted that it is admirably sited for a Central Abattoir which would serve the entire district and surrounding areas.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

July to 31st December, 1954.

	Cattle, excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	663	145	108	2,239	470
Number inspected	663	145	108	2,239	470
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	3	1	10	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	14	4	16	5
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1%	12%	5%	1%	1%
Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	6	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	7	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ %	9%	—	—	1%

FOOD INSPECTION (Condemnations).

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Legal proceedings
1 Canned Goods	37 lbs.	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council's 14 sewage works, sewerage systems and pumping stations are under the control and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr G Edgar-Dimmack, M.I. Mun. E., who has provided the following information on Sewage Disposal Works owned by the Council.

(a) Sewage Disposal Works owned and operated by the Council as at 31st December, 1954, are as follows :—

- (1) Heddon-on-the-Wall (New Works).
- (2) Stannington (Two Works).
- (3) Wallridge.
- (4) Darras Hall Estate.
- (5) Kirkheaton.
- (6) Ponteland (Two Works).
- (7) Ridge Estate
- (8) Stamfordham.
- (9) Whalton.
- (10) Woolsington.
- (11) Capheaton
- (12) Ogle.
- (13) Belsay.
- (14) Kenton Bank Foot.

(b) Pumping Stations discharging to the Sewers of the Longbenton Urban District Council :—

- (1) Dinnington East.
- (2) Dinnington West.

(c) New Sewage Disposal Works and Sewerage Systems.

The new Sewerage System, Sewage Disposal Works and Pumping Plant at Heddon-on-the-Wall were completed and came into operation early in the year.

Work on the construction of a new sewerage system and disposal works at Stamfordham was commenced in March and the contract was half completed by the end of the year.

The Burn Close to Woolsington Sewer was completed during the year.

(d) **Old Sewage Disposal Works taken over.**

Kenton Bank Foot Sewage Disposal Works, which was previously privately owned, has now been taken over by the Council.

BRUNTON PARK ESTATE.

The sewage from this estate of some 420 dwellings, gravitates to the Gosforth Council's Sewerage System at the Three Mile Bridge, with whom an agreement exists for the treatment and disposal of the sewage.

The sewage from the large Hospitals and Institutions in the district is treated as follows :—

1. **St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.**

Tanks and filter beds with revolving distributors.

2. **Mona Taylor Hospital and Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington.**

Detritus tanks, settling tanks and percolating filters with revolving distributors.

3. **Netherton Training School, Stannington.**

Settling tanks, percolating filter and humus tanks.

4. **Children's Sanatorium and Farm Colony, Stannington.**

Tanks, filters and revolving distributors.

5. **Cottage Homes, Ponteland.**

Tanks and filters with trough distribution.

During the year, in connection with alterations and improvements to existing dwellings and premises, 53 new drainage systems were installed, of these, 6 were provided with a septic tank in accordance with the memorandum on Principles of Design for Small Domestic Sewage Treatment Works, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the remaining systems being connected direct to a public sewer. There were also 29 alterations or extensions. Included in the systems were 53 inspection chambers and 138 branch drains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action was taken in two cases where a stream was found to be polluted. In one instance an immediate remedy was effected, but in the other, work of reconstruction and improvement to a private Sewerage Works was necessary and a scheme is being prepared.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

There have been 66 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places :—

Dalton Farm, Dalton	..	..	..	..	1
Sunny Brae, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
Briar Bank, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
1—4, Duan Cottages, Brunswick Village	..	..	..	..	4
Carr Villa, Dinnington Village	..	..	..	..	1
9, Severs Terrace, Callerton	..	..	..	..	1
26 Houses, Armstrong Street, Callerton	..	..	..	..	26
12 Houses, Short Row, Callerton	..	..	..	..	12
Rose Cottage, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
Bank Cottages, Whalton	..	..	..	..	7
Ivy Cottage, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
Lane House, Stamfordham	..	..	..	..	1
Farm Cottage, No. 3, Higham Dykes	..	..	..	..	1
Two Cottages, Stannington	..	..	..	..	2
3, Carr View, Prestwick	..	..	..	..	1
House adjoining Quality Store, Stamfordham	..	..	..	..	1
Tyne View, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
2, Clayton Terrace, Heddon-on-the-Wall	..	..	..	..	1
Park Farm Cottages, Berwick Hill	..	..	..	..	2
					—
					66
					—

Of the above 66 conversions, 56 were assisted by the provision of Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, the Council paying not more than half of the reasonable cost of the work. 10 were carried out in connection with the reconditioning of the dwelling under the Housing Act, 1949-52.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The estimated area of the district is calculated to be approximately 130 square miles and is divided into 66 Parishes, of which 65 receive a refuse collection service (the remaining Parish of Wallridge does not possess a dwelling house).

A free service of cleansing of septic tanks also operates throughout the area. This consists of a portable 6 cwt. Mud Hog Diaphragm Pump with the usual suction and delivery pipes (3 inch) and a (250 gallon) sludge trailer.

For the purpose of administration and control, the district is divided into 5 sectors. One refuse collecting vehicle with charginman, driver and loader(s) is allocated to each sector. The charginman is responsible for his Sector and takes instruction direct from the office ; there is no general foreman.

In Sectors 1 and 2 which cover the built-up area of the district, weekly collection is maintained. Included in these sectors are the estates of Melton Park, Brunton Park and Darras Hall where rapid housing development is in progress.

To maintain a weekly service it will be necessary in the near future to increase the vehicular and personnel strength of the Cleansing Service. The remaining Sectors which are situated to the West, South and North-West are serviced every fortnight although the refuse from hospitals, institutions and some villages is collected weekly.

During the period under review there have been further wage increases. The sale of salvage has helped towards off-setting the increased cost.

CLEANSING COST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1955.

Estimated quantity of refuse removed	8,417 tons
Approximate average weight per house	1.9 tons
Average quantity per house per annum	6.2 cu yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days) ..	30 cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (refuse and salvage)	£9,363 17 4
Payment to men when sick	£100 0 0
	<hr/>
	£9,463 17 4
	<hr/>
Less Income from Salvage £837 11 4	
Less Income from Trade refuse 44 4 0	
	<hr/>
	881 15 4
	<hr/>
Net Cleansing cost ..	£8,582 2 0
	<hr/>
Cost per house	£1 19 0.4d.
Cost per head population	11 1.1d.
Cost on rates in the £	1 5.0d.

VEHICLES.

The following are the types and capacities of the refuse collecting vehicles operating in the district :—

Thornycroft	1943	9	cub. yds. (cap.)	side loader.
Thornycroft	1948	12	„	„ „ „
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	„	„ „ „
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	„	„ „ „
Bantam Karrier	1950	7	„	„ „ „
Bantam Karrier	1953	7	„	„ „ „

The vehicles which are petrol driven are garaged at Ponteland (Jackson Avenue Depot and one in a private garage) and Stamfordham.

Of the five vehicles operating from Ponteland covering Sectors 1, 2, 4 and 5, and Septic Tank Service, four are accommodated in a Nissen Hut, 60 feet x 20 feet.

It will be a considerable advantage when the newly planned depot is erected.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Disposal at Brunton Quarry has now ceased, all refuse from Brunton Park, Melton Park, North Gosforth and Hazlerigg is being deposited at Brunswick Village Quarry and this too is being rapidly filled. Negotiations with the National Coal Board, Number 2 Area, resulted in them offering free of charge a deep excavation left after out-crop coal mining, quarter of a mile north of " Mill Hill " and approximately 4 to 5 acres of marsh land west of Brunswick Village.

Other points of disposal in the district are as follows :—

1. Brickyard Quarry, Ponteland (rapidly filling up).
2. Shotten Edge (Quarry).
3. Stannington (Quarry).
4. Westerhope.
5. Belsay (2 Quarries).
6. Stobhill (Cheeseburn Grange).
7. Whalton.
8. Heddon-on-the-Wall.

SALVAGE.

All waste paper is graded, *i.e.*, newspapers, books and magazines, fibreboard and mixed paper being baled before dispatch to the Thames Board Mills with whom the Council have a contract for five years ending 30th June, 1955.

It is pleasing to report that this year there has been an all round increase in the collection of salvageable material, only 30 cwt. short of 100 tons.

The total tonnage of salvageable material sold during the year was 98½ tons compared with 68 tons for the previous period thus showing an increase of 30 tons.

It is regretted that more rags, old clothing, etc., are not put out in greater quantities for collection, as this could be a profitable source of income to offset cleansing costs.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	..	82	17	—	—	677	13	6
Rags	.. ..	2	13	—	—	66	2	9
Scrap Metal	..	12	19	—	21	95	9	7
Total	..	98	9	—	21	£839	5	10

WATER.

During the years preceding 1950 the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company supplied water under pressure to the eastern part of the district only. At that time it was considered that approximately two-thirds of the population was served from that source. The remaining part of the district rely on wells and springs and in a number of cases, boreholes.

At a Public Enquiry on 25th October, 1949, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company applied to the Ministry of Health for an Order to extend their water mains throughout the area of the Rural District,. For the purpose of the enquiry, information under the following headings was collected :—

- (a) House or Premises.
- (b) Category of House.
- (c) Occupants.
- (d) Number of rooms.
- (e) Water supply, baths, etc., Council or Private.
- (f) Type of Sanitary Convenience.
- (g) Position of Sanitary Convenience.
- (h) Remarks, *i.e.*, Special Sewage Disposal.

Some 275 farms and 1,210 other dwellings were visited. These premises were spread over 45 parishes. Samples of water totalling 49 were taken, some for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and others for bacteriological examination only. The information collected as a result of this survey has proved invaluable to the Council in many ways.

The estimated cost of the scheme, which is designed by Mr. S. G. Barrett, M.I.C.E., Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, is £280,000.

The Ministry of Health approved the application, and an Order known as the " Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950 " became operative on 31st July, 1950. Included in the Order is the construction of two service reservoirs, one situated at Harlow Hill capable of storing 750,000 gallons and the other at Moot Law with a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons. Pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works and at Burnside, Matfen, will raise the water to the respective service reservoirs. All the water so raised will have passed through Bell Bros. Mechanical Filters at Whittle Dene and will have been dosed with ammonia and chlorine.

It is proposed to utilise the existing water supply at Whalton and to extend the water mains to supply the Parishes of Trewick, Shilvington, Ogle, Twizell and Riplington.

The implementation of the scheme which is divided into six phases, commenced on August 1st, 1951.

Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E., the Engineer and Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following information in connection with the new scheme.

The position to date (31st December, 1954), is as follows :—

Phase I.

Extension of existing water main at Stannington Village to Clifton, a branch being taken off to serve the districts of Duddo Hill and Well Hill (includes the Sanatorium). Extension of main at Smallburn, Ponteland, to Thorneyford, a branch is taken from this main at Kirkley South Lodge to Kirkley March.

Phase II.

North Moor (Stannington) to Clifton on the main North Road, a branch taken to a point in the vicinity of Dovecote House.

Limestone Lane on the Belsay Road to Milbourne Road End north of Waggon Inn, an extension from Brickyard, Ponteland, terminating for the present near Eastfield Farm House. Extension from Park House to Berwick Hill, and a branch of the Thorneyford main to supply South Carter Moor.

Commencement of installations of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works, and service reservoir at Harlow Hill.

Phase III.

Completion of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works and the service reservoir at Harlow Hill. Laying of mains via Dalton, Windy Walls to supply Hawkwell and Stamfordham, and from Harlow Hill to Whitcheater to Heddon. Whitcheater via Loudside Leager House, Dissington Lane House to Callerton Lane End. Branch from Eachwick Road End via Penny Hill. Harlow Hill via Dodley, Kiln House to Hawkwell.

Prior to March, 1951, the Council supplied water to the communities of Heddon-on-the-Wall, Kirkheaton, Stamfordham and Whalton. On April 1st, 1951, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company in pursuance of Part III, Sec. 10, of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, took over the Council's water works and all pipes connected thereto which supplied the above communities.

Phase IV.

This phase of the water supply scheme commenced in January 1954, and was substantially completed by the end of the year. Mains were laid as follows :—

Field House to Dalton Hill Head and South to Dalton Road Ends.

Stamfordham to Heatherslaw.

Heugh to Robsheugh with branch to Huntlaw.

Robsheugh to Milbourne and branch to South East Farm

Milbourne Village to Belsay with branches from Highlander Inn to Worlds End and Middle Newham, and from Red House to Ogle Hill Head.

Redhouse to Whalton via North Trewick.

Whalton to Ogle, with branches to Ogle Mill and Ogle Castle.
Ogle to Kirkley March.

Whalton Manor to Shilvington with branches to Cock Hill Farm and West Houses.

Shilvington to Twizell Cottage and Twizell Farm.

Twizell Cottage to Saltwick.

Whalton Water Supply Tank to Whalton Hill Head.

The Moot Law Reservoir and the Matfen Pumping Station were completed, except for the installation of pumping plant in the latter.

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES.

Since the laying of the Newcastle and Gateshead water mains to Berwick Hill, the private supply has now been discontinued. This also applies in part to the village of Dalton.

1. Belsay.

Population : 166 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 55 (of which 10 are farms).

Supplies 50 houses (of which 7 are farms and 1 school).

Two boreholes supply the village, one borehole is situated at Bounder House and the other at Burnside. The water is raised by engine pump, to collecting tanks, and gravitates from this point to supply the village.

2. Capheaton.

Population : 97 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 27 (of which 7 are farms).

Supplies 30 houses (of which 5 are farms).

One spring supplies the village of Capheaton and farm houses in the vicinity. The spring is situated half-a-mile to the west of the village, the water being raised by engine pump to an underground storage tank situated on high ground, and gravitating from this point through cast iron pipes to supply the village.

3. Matfen.

Population : 194 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 62 (of which 6 are farms).

Supplies 33 houses including Matfen Hall and 1 farm.

One well supplies the village of Matfen. The well is situated some 300 yards west of the village, water being raised by windmill and engine pump to an overhead storage tank, and gravitating from this point to supply the village.

4. Ryal.

Population : 36 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 11 (of which 5 are farms).

Supplies 6 houses (of which 1 is a farm).

One spring supplies the village of Ryal, being situated some 600 yards south-west of South Farm. The water is raised by hydraulic ram to storage tank at north side of the village, and gravitates through wrought iron piping from this point to supply the village.

5. Stannington.

(Part now served by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company).

Population : 2,616 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 247 (of which 60 are farms).

Supplies : Stannington Vale Farm and 8 Estate Houses at
 Stannington Vale.
 Town Farm House.
 Swan Farm House.
 Vicarage.
 School.
 28 houses in village.

One spring supplies the village of Stannington, being situated at Duddo Hill, north-west of the village. The water is raised by pump to a small tank from which it gravitates to the village.

WATER SUPPLIES. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

During the year 9 samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination. In some cases the occupants of houses were instructed to boil the water before use, pending the laying of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Mains, and in others it was possible to remedy the position.

Date	Premises	Type of Supply	Number of Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C per 100 ml
8/4/54	East Wallhouses	Spring	1 per 100 ml.
23/6/54	Whitehouse, Capheaton		160 per 100 ml.
31/8/54	The Lodge, Heddon-on-the-Wall	Borehole	Over 180 per 100 ml. 13 per 100 ml
6/9/54	Heatherslaw Farm	Spring	Over 180 per 100 ml.
26/9/54	Cottage Home, Ponteland. Collecting Chamber	Borehole	Over 180 per 100 ml.
26/9/54	ditto Water Tower	N/cle & Gateshead	5 per 100 ml.
10/11/54	ditto Collecting Chamber	Borehole	Nil.
10/11/54	ditto	Borehole	Chemical Analysis -- water suitable for drinking and domestic use.

I am indebted to Mr. S. G. Barrett, Engineer to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for the following information :—

During the year ended 31st December, 1954, bacteriological analyses were carried out at Whittle Dene Works on 970 samples of filtered

water of which 99.8% were found to be free of Bact. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.

Various local authorities within the Company's Supply Area also carried out their customary analyses and of the 350 samples thus examined bacteriologically, not one unsatisfactory result was obtained and 98.6% were classified "highly satisfactory."

The bi-monthly chemical analyses conducted by Messrs. Pattinson, Consulting Chemists, were consistently reported as very satisfactory.

Samples from the Kirkheaton supply were taken at West Farm and Kirkheaton Farm. The former, taken in March, gave a satisfactory result and the latter, taken in June, was classified "suspicious."

Three samples from the Whalton supply, taken in February, June and September, gave "highly satisfactory" results.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping their district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a full-time rodent operator is employed. Dwelling houses are serviced free of charge. In other cases, *i.e.*, business premises, farms, etc., a charge is made for the work done, and under this heading the sum of £82 14s. 7d. was recovered during the year.

Methods employed in rodent destruction are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and close co-operation is maintained with both the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry and the Rodent Officer of the County Agricultural Committee.

In the year under review there was an increase in the number of dwelling houses and business premises inspected (189 this year as against 154) and a slight decrease in the number of farms (123 as against 138).

The following table summarises the work carried out under this Act :—

	Type of Property			Agri- cultural	Total
	Non-Agricultural				
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)		
No. of properties in District ..	31	4,292	231	487	5,041
No. of Properties inspected ..	31	131	58	123	343
Total Inspections (incl. re-inspections)	104	217	71	167	559
No. of Properties found to be infested and treated by Local Authority—					
(a) Rats	16	53	10	32	111
(b) Mice	—	19	6	1	26
Total Treatments carried out incl. re-treatments	20	82	25	25	152
Number of “ Block ” Control Schemes carried out	—	4	—	—	4

PUBLIC SEWERS.

The public sewers throughout the district were serviced as necessary in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. Treatments were applied and the detailed results forwarded to the Ministry's Infestation Control Division.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Reference was made in the Annual Report of 1953 to the commencement of an investigation into the degree of atmospheric pollution at Brunswick Village. Two pit spoil banks and a chimney from a battery of brick-making kilns were thought to be largely contributing to the nuisance.

On the instructions from the Council, Mr. P. C. G. Isaac, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.R.San.I., Chartered Civil Engineer, undertook to carry out an investigation, and for that purpose the following instruments were set up :—

1. Lead Peroxide Candles for the measurement of sulphur dioxide were fixed in five selected points. (Serviced by Mr. Isaac's staff).
2. A single daily gauge for the measurement of smoke by means of a filter stain and the measurement of sulphur dioxide by absorption in dilute hydrogen peroxide. This gauge gave the actual daily concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air. (Serviced by Public Health Department staff).
3. A deposit gauge to British Standard 1747 : 1951 for monthly analysis. (Serviced by Public Health Department Staff).

The result of the investigation, which was spread over six months, is shown in an eighteen page report from Mr. Isaac of which each member of the Council received a copy.

It is felt that a fair picture of the result of the investigation is shown on Page 9, Paragraph 24, Sub.-Paragraph (xi) of Mr. Isaac's report :—

“ The observed atmospheric pollution in Brunswick Village cannot be good for health (sec. 23) but the effects must be less than those produced in the centre of a large industrial city such as Newcastle (sec.22) which is far from being the worst in Britain.”

Action in connection with remedial measures is being actively pursued with the Coal Board Officials.

The Standard Deposit Gauge is being continued in use as a routine measure of control. The results from this are forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research who supply the Council with a monthly Bulletin which shows the results of similar observations taken by other Local Authorities throughout the Country.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT. YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954,

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or Contra- ventions of Bye-laws	No. of informal notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of statutory notices served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects	..	306	163	279	12
Defective Food Store	..	17	37	17	—
Dampness	..	41	30	45	—
Overcrowding	..	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient	..	7	7	7	7
Unsatisfactory	..	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient	..	7	7	—	7
Defective	..	21	10	16	—
SAN. CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient	..	5	5	5	—
Defective	..	29	29	29	1
Food Premises	..	11	—	11	—
Dairies	..	2	—	2	—
Slaughter Houses	..	41	—	41	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	..	5	—	5	—
Offensive Trades	..	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	..	9	—	9	—
Keeping of Animals	..	2	—	2	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	..	27	27	27	—
Offensive accumulations	..	3	—	3	—
Smoke Nuisances	..	5	5	4	—
TOTAL	2,149	538	320	502	27

HOUSING.

New Houses completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	150	—	150
(b) By any other Housing Authority	2	—	2
(c) By private persons	—	188	188

Total number of Inhabited Houses in district .. 4,346

1. RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Category	Classification	Number
1	Satisfactory in all respects	2,730
2	Minor defects	417
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	946
4	Appropriate for reconditioning	191
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	62

2. HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925/1932.**REGULATION 31.**

1	No. of houses unfit for human habitation	62
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action	107
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :	
	(a) serving notices requiring the execution of work..	12
	(b) making demolition or closing orders	31
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works ..	33
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	11
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	14
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection 3 of Sec. 11 of Housing Act, 1936	17
8.	No. of houses demolished	1

3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949.

	Number of separate houses
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	136
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ..	—
(c) Applications forwarded to Ministry	100
(d) Applications rejected by Ministry	—
(e) Applications approved	136
(f) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	169

CONCLUSION.

It is with regret that I record the death of Mr. G. Hardy, Additional Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Hardy, who had been ill for some time, was appointed to the Council in 1947. He was a man of genial disposition and was held in high esteem not only by the staff, but throughout the district. As a friend and colleague I deeply regret his passing.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

